

Appl. No. 09/914,526
Atty. Docket No. 7472
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 8 and 11 - 14 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 8 are cancelled herein without prejudice. The limitations of Claim 2 have been incorporated into Claim 1. New Claim 15 is added. Support for new Claim 15 is found in the instant specification on page 4, lines 18 - 23; page 11, lines 14 - 33; and page 12, lines 1 - 8. It is submitted that these amendments and new Claim 15 add no new matter, and entry is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for the reasons of record stated at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Claim 8 is cancelled herewith without prejudice. Hence, the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection of Claim 8 is now moot.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the reasons of record stated at page 3 of the Office Action. Claim 11 is amended to overcome this rejection. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the suggested amendment. Support for this amendment is found on page 12, lines 8 - 15.

Rejections Under §§102 or 103

Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 7, and 11 - 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over EP 353,976 (hereinafter "Maden") for the reasons of record stated at page 5 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectively traversed as far as it applies to the claims remaining in the instant application. Maden purportedly discloses coating the outside of an agglomerate with a layer of dessicant material so as to adsorb free water. [See Maden page 2, lines 21 - 22 and page 2, lines 50 - 52].

The claims of the instant application now include *inter alia* a particle coating layer comprised of a water soluble non-hydrating inorganic material.

In contrast to the instant invention, Maden requires a dessicant material which is a hydrating material. Hence, the coating disclosed by Maden is intended to and will absorb water. This is just the opposite of the coating of the present invention. Hence, Claims 1, 3, 6 - 7, and 11 - 13 of the instant application are neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Maden.

Claims 1 - 3 and 11 - 13 stand rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,783,281 issued to (hereinafter "Bishop") for the reasons of record stated at page 6 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as far as it applies to the claims remaining in the instant application. Bishop purportedly discloses a spray dried detergent powder which incorporates sodium bicarbonate. [See Bishop Abstract]. Bishop does not suggest either expressly

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or implicitly utilizing *inter alia* a particle coating layer comprised of a water soluble non-hydrating inorganic material to coat a particle core comprising a detergent active material, wherein the core is an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices. Hence, Claims 1, 3, and 11 - 13 of the instant application are not obvious in view of Bishop.

Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 7, and 11 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,923,628 issued to Appel (hereinafter "Appel '628") for the reasons of record stated at pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as far as it applies to the claims remaining in the instant application. Appel '628 purports to disclose granular detergent compositions prepared by spray-drying. [See column 1, lines 10 - 11 of Appel '628]. Appel teaches utilizing powders which are hydrating powders. [See column 6, lines 16 - 30 of Appel '628].

Appel '628 does not teach or suggest either expressly or implicitly utilizing *inter alia* a particle coating layer comprised of a water soluble non-hydrating inorganic material to coat a particle core comprising a detergent active material, wherein the core is an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices. Hence, Claims 1, 3, 6 - 7, and 11 - 14 are not obvious in view of Appel '628.

Claims 1 - 7 and 11 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,069,124 issued to Appel (hereinafter "Appel '124") for the reasons of record stated at pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as far as it applies to the claims remaining in the instant application. Appel '124 purports to disclose a granulate and a spray dried adjunct. [See Appel '124]. As the Office Action indicates, Appel '124 fails to disclose a granulate having a surface with irregularities and crevices and a particle coating layer which at least partially covers the granulate. Nor does Appel '124 teach or suggest either expressly or implicitly *inter alia* a particle coating layer at least partially covering a particle core comprising a detergent agglomerate wherein the particle coating layer comprises a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material and wherein the particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10%. Hence, Claims 1, 3 - 7 and 11 - 14 are not obvious in view of Appel '124.

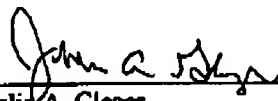
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SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections. Early and favorable action in the case is requested. This Office Action Response is being timely filed within the three month response period on Monday November 22, 2004 as the three month response due date of November 20, 2004 fell on a Saturday.

Respectfully submitted,

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